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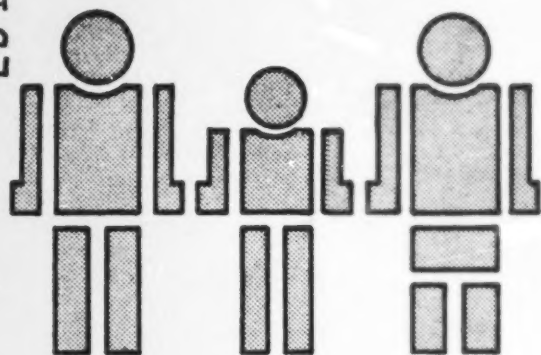
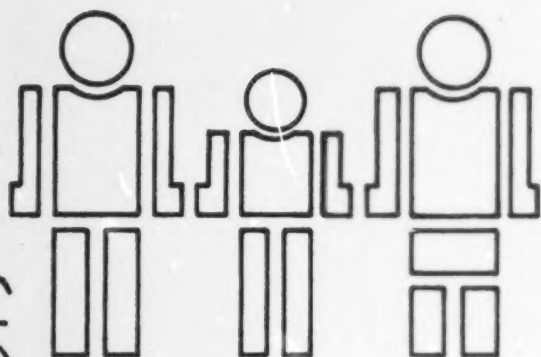
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ABSTRACT

This document presents one in a series of twenty-three case studies derived from in-depth interviews using a sampling of former participants in the Mountain-Plains program, a residential, family-based education program developed to improve the economic potential and lifestyle of selected student families in a six-state area. Each case study contains the following information about a specific student family: biographical data; participation in the educational and community programs; home, income, placement, and employment data; stated problems and/or satisfactions; summaries of the participants' personal and social development; individual ratings of the program; scripts of personal interviews; interviewer comments; and individual test scores and self-assessments. This document presents specific findings on Jim and Nan Schmidt, a very shy, teenage couple with an infant son. The follow-up study reports that the Schmidts completed the program and had greatly improved their self-concepts. (Names in these studies have been changed.) Two other documents are included in the series: a report which examines work and income variables for the group (ED 110 610) and a report which summarizes group findings on personal and social development (CE 014 681). Specific documentation for the instruments utilized in the study are included in both of these related documents. (BM)

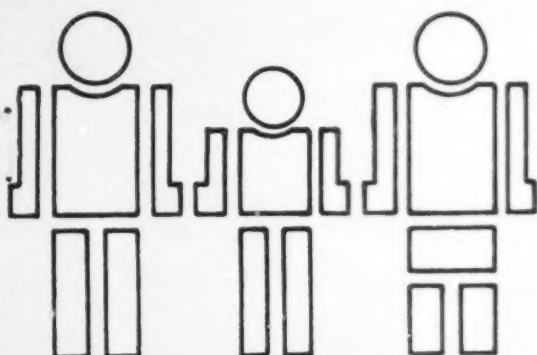
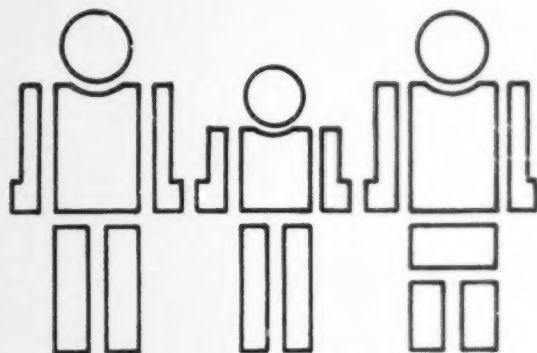
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CASE STUDY REPORT # 2

Jim and Nan Schmidt



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APR 1976

CASE STUDY REPORT

JIM AND NAN SCHMIDT

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May, 1975

**A Product of Research Services Division
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PREFACE

Reports in this series are derived from in depth interviews using a stratified random sample of former Mountain-Plains students. Interviews were conducted from November, 1974 through January, 1975 by Mountain-Plains professional research staff. Case Study Report 1 examines Work and Income variables for the group. Case Study Reports 2 through 24 include specific findings on each family included in the sampling. Case Study Report 25 summarizes group findings on personal and social development. A summary of the research design for the Case Study Reports is documented in: Coyle, David A.; Conrad, Rowan W.; and Myers, Douglas D. In Depth Case Study of Exited Families: A Summary of the Research Design for Phase 1 Preliminary Effects Study. Glasgow, Montana: Mountain-Plains Press, 1974. Specific documentation for the instruments utilized in the study are included in either Case Study Report 1 or Case Study Report 25. All names in these studies have been changed.

Michael C. Fenenbock
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CASE STUDY REPORT

JIM AND NAN SCHMIDT

BACKGROUND

Jim and Nan Schmidt entered the Mountain-Plains Program in March, 1973. Jim, age 19, had completed 12 years of formal education while Nan, age 16, had finished 10. An unplanned pregnancy and subsequent family responsibility had forced Nan from school and Jim into work. At the time, Jim, Nan, and their infant son Andy, were living rent free in a two room house provided by a friend of the family in the small farm town of Carlton, North Dakota. Nan recalls the house as cramped, run-down, cold, and drafty. The Schmidt's report their life was plagued by constant financial problems, responsibility for their infant son, and frequent marital problems. (Nan recalled their marital problems to be centered in her absolute jealousy and possessiveness and Jim's "uncommunication.")

Unemployed for 4 months due to seasonal layoffs, Jim had worked sporadically during the previous year as a farm hand, a general laborer for the railroad, and an assembler for Haymaker Corporation--a farm implement assembly company. A back injury precluded Jim's employment in areas typically pursued by those holding only a high school education and no specific training.

Feeling a need to resume education but lacking resources, the Schmidt's discovered Mountain-Plains through an employment training search. At the time, Mountain-Plains offered occupational preparation in Social and Educational

Services which was congruent with Jim's main interests--medical and/or social services employment.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Mountain-Plains, at the time of the Schmidt's entry, was undergoing certain fundamental program changes and redevelopment; a redevelopment, which was to see the phasing out of the occupational program (Social and Educational Services) in which Jim was enrolled. Although this occupational preparation area was terminated before Jim's completion, one instructor did remain in order that students currently enrolled might complete. In this fashion, Jim and Nan completed the program and exited Mountain-Plains in November, 1973.

While in the program, both Jim and Nan had a reputation for extreme shyness. Additionally, they were known as responsible and hard working. Nan completed occupational preparation with validation as a receptionist; although her supplemental skills in typing, etc., were reported to be minimum. At exit, Jim was very highly rated in his area of social and educational services and was felt to be an excellent employment prospect. Because of Nan's shyness, it was recommended that prospective employers be made aware of her timidity and low self-confidence.¹ At exit, both were rated as possessing personal and personality development adequate for their age and were reported to have no major unresolved problems that did not typify their developmental stage.

¹Nan's personal progress in this area was felt to be such that her shyness was not believed to be a major handicap.

PLACEMENT

At exit, Jim was placed as an orderly with the South Dakota State Hospital in Yankton. This was Jim's first employment related to his career interests and was to have been a temporary position while he undertook training as a psychiatric technician. However, Jim reports, training and advancement did not follow. Jim observed that the Mountain-Plains office in his state promised that if the technician job did not materialize they would help secure another position more appropriate to his training. Jim says several contacts with the state office in this regard were to no avail.²

As heavy lifting was involved in his orderly duties, Jim was unable to pursue the position and resigned a few months after hire. Jim remained unemployed for eight months. In pursuit of employment, Jim secured a Vocational Rehabilitation grant through referral from the Employment Security Commission.

HOME AND INCOME

Vocational rehabilitation funds are currently paying Jim's school expenses, and the family is living on aid to families with dependent children payments. For three months during Jim's unemployment, Nan worked as a nurse's aide at \$289 a month; however, she commented there was a great deal of stress on the job which caused her to have a very severe stomach problem. (Nan says her reaction to stress is such that it results in gastrointestinal disturbances.)

²The interviewer speculates that due to the phasing out of the Social and Educational Services program, job placement machinery in that area has been largely disassembled. Consequently, the state office was unable to find appropriate employment.

The Schmidt's Aid to Families with Dependent Children pays \$287 a month. Of this, \$46 is allotted for \$118 in food stamps while the remainder is spent on food, rent, medical and automobile expenses.

Currently, the family rents a modern 12x65 foot two bedroom trailer home located in a trailer park in Minton, Wyoming. (Most of the units in this trailer park are rented to students at the Vocational Technical School.) The Schmidt's reported being satisfied with their home; particularly in contrast to the old two room house with poor heating. Finances are very close and a major worry is the Schmidt's badly aging automobile which may or may not make it through another year.

Jim is studying to be a dental technician at the Vocational Technical School, and although this is not as satisfying as his ideal of being a counseling aide, he does seem to enjoy his work (study). Upon completion of Jim's education and his subsequent employment, Nan intends to return to school as she very much wants to be a nurse.³

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Schmidt's are not involved in the community in any way and did not vote in the last election. The Schmidt's said they intended to vote, but having just moved to Wyoming they were not registered. At present, they see their re-

³Nan's past record of inability to deal with stress would not indicate probable success as a nurse. However, she was observed to be considerably more confident at program exit than at entry and also clearly more confident now than at exit. Should such a development trend continue Nan may be able to achieve her goal.

sponsibility to the community in terms of "not causing any trouble." Their social life is limited to student house parties, and occasional movies. Fishing and picnics are added during the summer. Nan observed that the social parties are boring and the people not as interesting as the people were at Mountain-Plains. (The Schmidt's friends are mostly other students involved in the dental technician course.) Nan complains that at parties all the people end up "sitting around talking about their teeth."

The Schmidt's utilize community resources in three ways: (1) vocational rehabilitation funds support books, tuition, etc.; (2) AFDC payments support their daily living expenses while in school; and (3) the food stamp program supplements their income. Jim is reported to have used the mental health center during a period of stress last fall for some crisis support counseling.⁴

PROBLEMS AND SATISFACTIONS

Other than economic needs, the Schmidt's commented that their major problem is their son, Andy. Andy is afflicted with a muscle disease and is unable to do things other children his age do such as stand and walk alone or even hold his head up for long periods of time. Doctors report that the disease spontaneously remits.

⁴Among the families included in the follow-up studies, Jim alone has made a self-referral for psychological assistance. The interviewer feels that this is probably due to Jim's sophistication in the psychological area stemming from his enrollment in the Social and Educational Services program at Mountain-Plains.

The Schmidt's say their only current debt is a \$15 per month payment on a \$200 stereo. (This compares with approximately \$1,000 in financial obligations at the time of entering Mountain-Plains. The indication is that even with student status and spotty employment the Schmidt's have been able to control and budget their money in such ways as to discharge their past responsibilities and have been sufficiently responsible not to incur further major indebtedness.)

Both Nan and Jim believe they deal with everyday problems well. For example, they related that when the auto insurance came due unexpectedly, they sat down with their budget and juggled and squeezed until they got the money to pay it. The major problem perceived at the moment is constantly having to budget and juggle in order to live in an inflationary time with only the AFDC payment.

Both Jim and Nan feel that they have made progress since attending Mountain-Plains in terms of overall life success and both are very optimistic as regards future success and happiness in life; although currently they are neither particularly satisfied nor dissatisfied with their lot in life. Both declare they would definitely attend Mountain-Plains again and that Mountain-Plains was a positive influence in their lives. (See Table 2.)

The Schmidt's say they have had both "good" and "bad" breaks in life; although Nan expresses the opinion that they have had more "bad" than "good" breaks. Among the "bad" breaks they list the fact that there were no jobs in Social and Educational Services when they finished Mountain-Plains, that Jim's back problem prevents him from doing certain types of work, that Jim has

never had a really good job because of this, and finally that their son, Andy, contracted the muscle disease. As for "good" breaks the Schmidt's are happy that the car is not yet falling apart in spite of its advanced age and mileage, and that there have been no large health problems since they no longer have health insurance. They list Mountain-Plains as a major "good" break and feel particularly fortunate to have had a second chance for Jim to go to school (the Vocational/Technical School), this time in an area where employment is virtually assured and at a high rate of pay.

Jim declared his major satisfactions as knowing that he is doing something that is going to improve his future prospects, and outings with his wife and family. Nan stated that watching her son and husband play and family outings give her the most satisfaction.

Nan comments that what "gets her down the most" is her husband or son being ill--she can't help worrying about them. It also pains her that her parents are divorced and although both are remarried, still fight, not only with each other, but with their current spouses as well.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In evaluating personal and social development, Nan scores at, and Jim well below, the norm on perceived powerlessness and anomie. Jim's behavior indicates that he does in fact have a great deal of sophistication as to the working of the social system and is able to use it to his advantage. Jim indicated that since entering Mountain-Plains his punctuality and self-control have

decreased; although he feels that his confidence, industriousness, responsibility, cooperation, courteousness, dependability, and ambition have improved. Nan says her punctuality, attendance and perseverance are down, but that she is more industrious, accurate, responsible, and dependable than when she entered Mountain-Plains. (See Figure 3 and Table 1.)

Pretest data on self-concept for Jim and Nan are not available. Both now score at or above norm on almost all self-concept variables measured by the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale. Nan, however, scores one standard deviation and Jim one and a half standard deviations below norm on self-criticism. These scores, particularly in Jim's case with his psychological sophistication, may indicate that he attempted to "psyche out" the test and purposely give socially desirable answers. (During the program, both Jim and Nan had a reputation for constantly striving to please, almost to a fault.) The test was given at the beginning of the first evening of the interview and the interviewer noted that during the first evening--particularly during the first half of the first evening--the Schmidt's shyness was still somewhat apparent.⁵ (See Figure 4.)

The overall self-concept profile is best interpreted with caution. However, as Jim and Nan were both observed to have very strong self-concept and self-confidence problems at entry, even a cautious interpretation gives a favorable indication of development.

⁵Based on their own early Mountain-Plains behavior they were not shy. Based on the average for all students interviewed they were "shy" early in the interview.

Comparative scale interpretations can, however, be made with confidence.

The areas of strongest self-concept for Jim are self-satisfaction, personal self-concept, and family self-concept with the lowest being moral/ethical self. Nan's strongest self-concept area is her family self-concept. Nan is also high on moral/ethical self-concept, personal self-concept, and social self-concept. Nan's lowest area by far is physical self-concept. (As reported earlier, Nan says she is a worrier, that when things happen that are threatening--particularly to herself, her husband or to her son--she has a "worrying attack" which usually results in severe stomach upset.)

RATING THE MOUNTAIN-PLAINS PROGRAM

In general, the Schmidts rated all aspects of the Mountain-Plains Program of at least some value to them with the exception of "English" which Nan rated as of little value. Jim declared that math and work experience were of the most value to him among all the components in the program while Nan believed that work experience and consumer education/budgeting were of most value to her. Additionally, Jim said that math was very useful because, "You use it every day in many ways." Jim indicated that career guidance and recreation were the least useful to him as he did not use Mountain-Plains recreation and he already knew what he wanted to be occupationally before he came. Nan reported that recreation was of the least value to her. (See Figure 5.)

Specifically, Jim rated work experience as very valuable because he met and learned to work with different kinds of people. Nan remarked that because of budgeting she is now able to handle money properly whereas before she had

difficulty. In addition, Nan says that work experience helped her to gain confidence and to not be so shy.

Jim said career guidance was of little help in deciding what to do since he had already decided that before he came. Additionally, Jim felt that he was allowed to make a bad choice. In other words, no one pointed out to him the probable difficulties in finding employment; although it must surely have been known, because at the time he entered (he later discovered) there was already talk of phasing out social and educational services due to difficulties in securing employment. Jim declared he liked his career preparation area (Social and Educational Services) and that he "learned a lot", but that it was a bad occupation to get into because there were no jobs. Nevertheless, Jim commented that guidance helped his self-confidence in that it allowed him to confirm a career choice that he was comfortable with. Nan said that she liked guidance but did not feel that she gained any particular benefits from it; although they provided interesting material and the staff were very helpful. The Schmidt's observed that in guidance, people need to be more knowledgeable about the occupational areas and about employment opportunities and that guidance should warn people about things like poor employment prospects in a profession.

Jim rated Mountain-Plains instructors highly and said they were always willing to help. He liked the housing, "It was real good--maybe too good because it spoiled me and I don't know when I will ever be able to afford a house that good again." Nan remarked that she particularly liked being able to work at her own speed at Mountain-Plains and that she liked, "the extra classes beyond

just the vocational--the counseling and stuff." Both agreed that Mountain-Plains was a little disorganized. For example, nobody signed their certificate of completion.

Jim said that it was useless for Mountain-Plains to train people in Social Education Services in the first place because, although he knew enough to do a job in the area, the minimum qualifications for those jobs were invariably a college degree in the social work area. He observed that Mountain-Plains needed to be more aware of the prejudices in the employment market as well as of the jobs available there. Jim said that if he were now at Mountain-Plains, he would definitely do a different occupational area: probably accounting or hotel/motel management because, "You can't get a job in social services without a college degree." Nan stated that she would like to go into the nursing profession, but among those occupations offered at Mountain-Plains, she would stick with the business and office classes she had taken.

Nan recalled that occupational preparation was adequate, but that more instructors were needed in her training area (business and office). Each felt that both their math and communication skills had been adequate.

Jim did not feel that he gained any specific advantages from counseling, but that it was helpful to know it was there. As mentioned, Jim did not believe that counseling helped him in developing any specific trait, but "It definitely didn't hurt, and it was there when you needed help with something." Jim related the instance of discovering their son's muscular disease and the counseling department's assistance in helping them to deal with not only the logistical

problem of the specialist examination, but with support in this time of crisis as well. Nan declared that counseling helped her with her self confidence and that this was accomplished through encouraging her to speak up and talk to others in group counseling. She reported that initially she was very quiet and fearful in a group setting, but that eventually she felt that she had to voice her opinion because "I didn't agree with some of the things that were being said." Nan said she would make no suggestions to counseling and that "it is okay as is."

As Jim is currently attending a traditional vocational technical school an ideal opportunity was presented to examine and compare the two types of educational offering. The following is a reconstruction of the dialogue on the subject.

Interviewer: Now that you've attended two types of school, which one did you like best?

Jim: Mountain-Plains!

Interviewer: Well, maybe that question was a little bit too general. Perhaps I should ask you what kinds of things you like about Mountain-Plains and what kinds of things you like about the vocational school.

Jim: Mountain-Plains, I like everything better, everything there is better than vocational school.

Interviewer: I find that a little hard to believe, is there nothing that is better about vocational school?

Jim: Well, little things - like there's a basketball team and things, they organize different kinds of trips for the students.

Interviewer: Anything else?

Jim: Yeah, there's more different kinds of things to study here than there was at Mountain-Plains.

Interviewer: What else would you say was better about vocational school?

Jim: (after thinking for a little bit) Nothing really.

Interviewer: Okay then, what would you say you liked more about Mountain-Plains?

Jim: Everything else.

Interviewer: What do you mean "everything else"?

Jim: Well, I liked the teachers better, the teachers were more available and could help you out more - and there was more concern about the students, and I liked the classes better, I liked the curriculum, you could set your own pace and go your own rate. Sometimes I have trouble keeping up here and sometimes I get bored waiting.

Interviewer: Anything else?

Jim: Yeah, I like, well, the guidance and counseling. There are a lot more students here and there's only one counselor and if you get an appointment you got to wait months even to see him. But probably the biggest thing was that at Mountain-Plains they treated me like an adult and here they treat you like a little kid.

Interviewer: How do you mean they treat you like a little kid?

Jim: Well, they run it like a high school you know, for little kids instead of like you were a grown-up person. For example, if you are late to class you got to go and get an excuse from the principal and if you are sick, you got to have a slip from the doctor and all this kind of nonsense.

Interviewer: Well, how are the students, are they a lot younger here than they were at Mountain-Plains?

Jim: I don't really know. I think they're a little bit younger but most of them are over twenty-one.⁶

Interviewer: Is there anything else that you can think of?

Jim: No.

Interviewer: So I hear you saying, you like the selection of occupations, basketball teams and things, but on the other hand, you don't feel as close to your teachers and you can't work at your own speed. You don't like the standard assignments, and you don't like the high school rules and atmosphere.

Jim: Yeah, and another thing I like at Mountain-Plains, the little lounges in each building where you can go and relax a little bit. They don't have anything like that here, just like one big place - it's too far away to go for a break anyway. If you go when you are supposed to be in class, you got to have an excuse and it's just a hassle.

Interviewer: Okay, you like the informal atmosphere and the little lounges and you also said before that you liked the idea of having counseling available instead of having one counselor and having to wait for six months. Sort of sounds to me like you'd rather be at Mountain-Plains now.

Jim: Yeah, you are more free there, but here they really treat you like a little kid. Another thing too, at Mountain-Plains, the extra stuff you get is relevant - like the way they do the math and the budgeting and things. (pause)

⁶In the instructor interview it was ascertained that the average at the Vo-Tech was about 25 - only about 1 year younger than the Mountain-Plains average during the Schmidt's attendance.

I don't like vo-tech nearly as good as I did Mountain-Plains, but I think I like it better than a college though. It doesn't seem like vo-tech has as much irrelevant stuff as colleges do.

Interviewer: So, if Mountain-Plains were training the kind of occupation you wanted, you think you would rather go there?

Jim: Oh, for sure, I definitely would like to go to Mountain-Plains. I think that it is the best kind of school - well, at least it's the best kind that I know of, I guess I don't know all about all of them.

Interviewer: You sound pretty positive about Mountain-Plains. Are you sure you're not saying that because you think I want to hear good things?

Jim: No, I really liked it, and I wish a lot of times I could go back there or that this place was like that.⁷

EMPLOYMENT

As Jim could not be rated on a regular "working" job, an interview was conducted with his main instructor at school who was asked to complete the MSS scales in terms of Jim's school work. Compared to employment norms, Jim appears to be satisfied with his school work and is highly rated by his instructor. His instructor gave Jim a strong rating and reported that, "He's

⁷It is interesting to note that the people who designed Mountain-Plains could not have come up with a better list of things to say had Jim been prompted--which he was not. He liked the individualism, he liked to go at his own rate, he liked the fact that the teachers spent personal time with individual students. He liked the availability of counseling and he liked the fact that the extra things "counseling and stuff" that Mountain-Plains had to offer were relevant. The things he complained most about in the vo-tech school were the high school type rules where students were treated like children rather than like adults, and he did not like the teacher/student interpersonal distance.

doing average work right now because he's gotten behind when he missed two weeks because of health problems. Otherwise, Jim is an above average student. His attendance is real good, and he is always prompt." Only during one two week period during which Jim sought out assistance from the mental health center was he absent from classes. Jim's instructor said he got along, "really well" with other students and staff. His grades are at the "A" to "B+" level and, "he tries hard and he is a good worker."

Since Nan has not been recently employed outside the home there is no employment information to relate beyond the JDI's satisfaction with housework scale where Nan rated at the 8th percentile versus women employed on jobs. Nan reports that she takes great satisfaction from her son and from her hobby of building "nicknacks"; however, her ambition is to be able to go to school and become a nurse.

FEMALE INTERVIEW

Nan was interviewed during the after noon with Jim absent and pursued the set of questions specially designed for women. She related that she is happy with herself physically, particularly with the way she looks and that she feels well--except for an occasional nervous stomach. She has complete confidence in her ability to plan and cook, sew, shop, budget, take care of health and nutrition and generally accomplish home care tasks. Nan says that she suffers no particular time pressure, that she is able to accomplish her tasks and still have time for herself, "...to make nicknacks and things", and that Jim is helpful around the house. Nan commented that she spends little time

outside the home on her own, mostly because she knows few people in her new community. Nan expected to do more as she made friends.

Nan reported being satisfied with her life and with her role in life, and that she felt appreciated by her husband. In terms of occupational preparation, she said that she took an occupational preparation course at Mountain-Plains just because she wanted to get out of the house and that she would do the same thing if she had it to do over again. She relates that she does more things just for herself now than she did previously and that she feels more secure because of increased confidence that she can take care of herself if something would happen to her husband. She states that she does not feel guilty when she does things just for herself because, she says, "I do a lot of things for Andy and Jim too."

Nan says she is a much better housekeeper and a lot more responsible and that now she takes more initiative to get things done. "Before, somehow, I just didn't care if things happened or got done. Didn't care if the house got clean or what people thought." Now, she says, she takes a pride in both herself and her home.

She reports being happy and confident in her role as a woman; although sometimes she would rather be a man. She attributes this to a sexual bias in society and other peoples attitudes. "I get tired of the attitude that women should stay home and do nothing, and a lot of people seem to have that." She does not, however, feel that her husband has it any easier than she does. She

commented that she likes herself and if she was someone else, she would choose herself as a friend because she likes to help people, is a good listener, and is honest.

When questioned in greater depth about taking initiative, Nan recalled that before Mountain-Plains she had essentially given up, the Schmidt's had so much bad luck and so many things had gone wrong, that she really had very little hope for the future. Now, however, she reports that she feels just the opposite.

Nan declared that Jim talks about his school problems with her, that she knows what he does at school and that they talk about all aspects of his work there. She reports that she and Jim made decisions together--except she makes decisions to buy groceries and clothes for herself and her son. However, on all other matters about life and money, they usually confer. This mutuality extends to child raising problems which, Nan says, they invariably discuss. She believes that they both took an equal hand in disciplining Andy. She remarks, however, that Jim is a better disciplinarian than she is because she is much too easy going.

Nan says that Jim has changed considerably since coming to Mountain-Plains. Before Mountain-Plains "he would never talk to me about anything." If he was experiencing problems he kept it in and "...just moped around the house." Now he doesn't get frustrated so easily, is more persistent and easier to get along with. Nan recalls that before Mountain-Plains she felt left out - felt that there was something wrong with her because Jim did not want to talk

about things with her. Nan believes that Jim began changing while at Mountain-Plains and has continued to improve ever since, that, "...it seems he has got confidence now."

Nan declared that the Schmidt's marriage has improved and attributes much of this marital improvement to her own changes. She says she does not get mad and disgusted or frustrated so easily and does not automatically feel responsible for her husband's moods. She stated that she gained a good deal of confidence through counseling and work experience, that she got so she could speak up in the counseling group, and even more so during her work experience.

Nan observed that the problems they are now dealing with are much different and much less serious than those they had before they went to Mountain-Plains. Nan remarks, "We fought a lot and I was insanely jealous. Now I'm not so jealous and we don't fight nearly so much." Problems now, she says, are no longer with each other, but rather, "typical things - like the car is about to fall apart and there isn't much money and that's really about all the problems we have. Jim still has his back problem and Andy still has to see the doctor, but the doctor says Andy will outgrow his muscle disease and Jim feels that once he can do something where there are jobs that don't require him to lift, then he doesn't really feel he'll have any more problems."

ADVICE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Jim and Nan were asked what they would tell a prospective student who was

considering coming to Mountain-Plains. They listed six things:

1. "Don't listen to everything your state coordinator tells you - sometimes he just doesn't know what's really there."
2. "The school is okay but check into what kind of job you can get before you decide to go in any particular type of training area."
3. "Tell them that it's better than high school and it's more free and you are not hassled around by petty things, and you don't have to conform to other peoples prejudices and time schedules."
4. "Tell people they will get good guidance on what to go into and will know if they can do the thing [if their abilities indicate success] before they start it."
5. "Watch out for rumors and don't believe all the things that go around."
6. "Get to know people before picking friends--there were some real screwballs at Mountain-Plains."

SUMMARY

From Mountain-Plains the Schmidt's appear to have gained maturity, hope, and the ability to draw support from each other. Both appear more confident and have observably better self images. They dislike being on welfare, however, and will be glad to be working. Since they are using it to better their situation (instead of just to sit around and maintain themselves) the Schmidt's say they do not feel as badly about welfare as they would otherwise. The Schmidt's seem to be using community resources well in order to continually better their situation. Not only are they using welfare payments and a vo-

cational rehabilitation grant to attend school, but they use the food stamp program and their consumer management skills to stretch dollars.

The major failure of Mountain-Plains in the Schmidt's eyes was the inability to find appropriate job placement for Jim within the Social and Educational Services area. The Schmidt's believe that Mountain-Plains also failed in not warning them of possible employment difficulties in the area at the time they enrolled.

All available objective test scores indicate a positive personal development for Jim and Nan and better than average social adjustment.

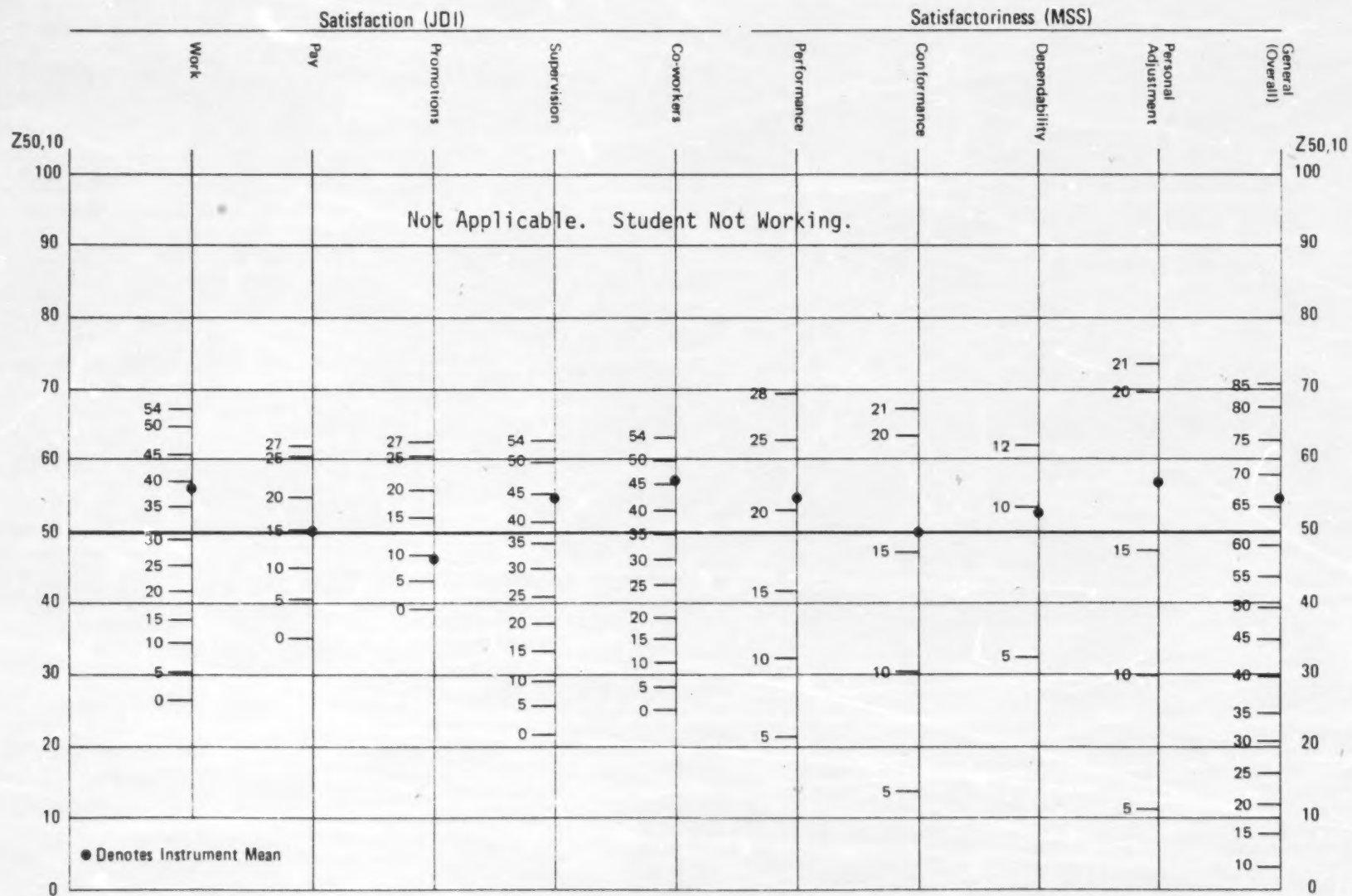
INTERVIEWER COMMENTS

The interviewer knew Jim and Nan when they entered the program. Nan was among the shyest Mountain-Plains students ever to attend, seldom raising her eyes when she walked down the hallway. Jim was shy and withdrawn, but a very agreeable person. The interviewer was particularly impressed by the change in Nan's personality. She is considerably more outgoing and welcomed the interviewer at the door the first night; whereas the time she entered Mountain-Plains, she would probably have hidden in the bedroom and feigned illness (or have generated enough tension to actually make herself ill). In many cases, it was Nan who took the lead in answering the more personal questions, and it was Nan who was most open in terms of exploring the marital relationship. Although guarded in their initial responses, by the end of the first evening the Schmidt's had both warmed to the discussions and were apparently open and objective throughout the remaining interview session.

The Schmidt's believe that Mountain-Plains was the turning point in their lives, that it gave them the strength and the skills to persevere until Jim was able to get further education. (Even after the disappointment of not being able to obtain adequate employment in the Mountain-Plains area of preparation.)

Because the Schmidt's were so young at the time they entered the program, it is difficult to say with certainty whether Mountain-Plains gave them their current personal/social skills, or that simple maturity was responsible for the rather dramatic alteration in personal development that characterizes both Jim and Nan. It is the subjective opinion of the interviewer that the Schmidt's are people who only needed an opportunity, who had developed many of the basic prerequisites for a successful development in interpersonal, social, and vocational functioning. However, in the absence of Mountain-Plains, it is not certain that such an opportunity to develop would have been available.

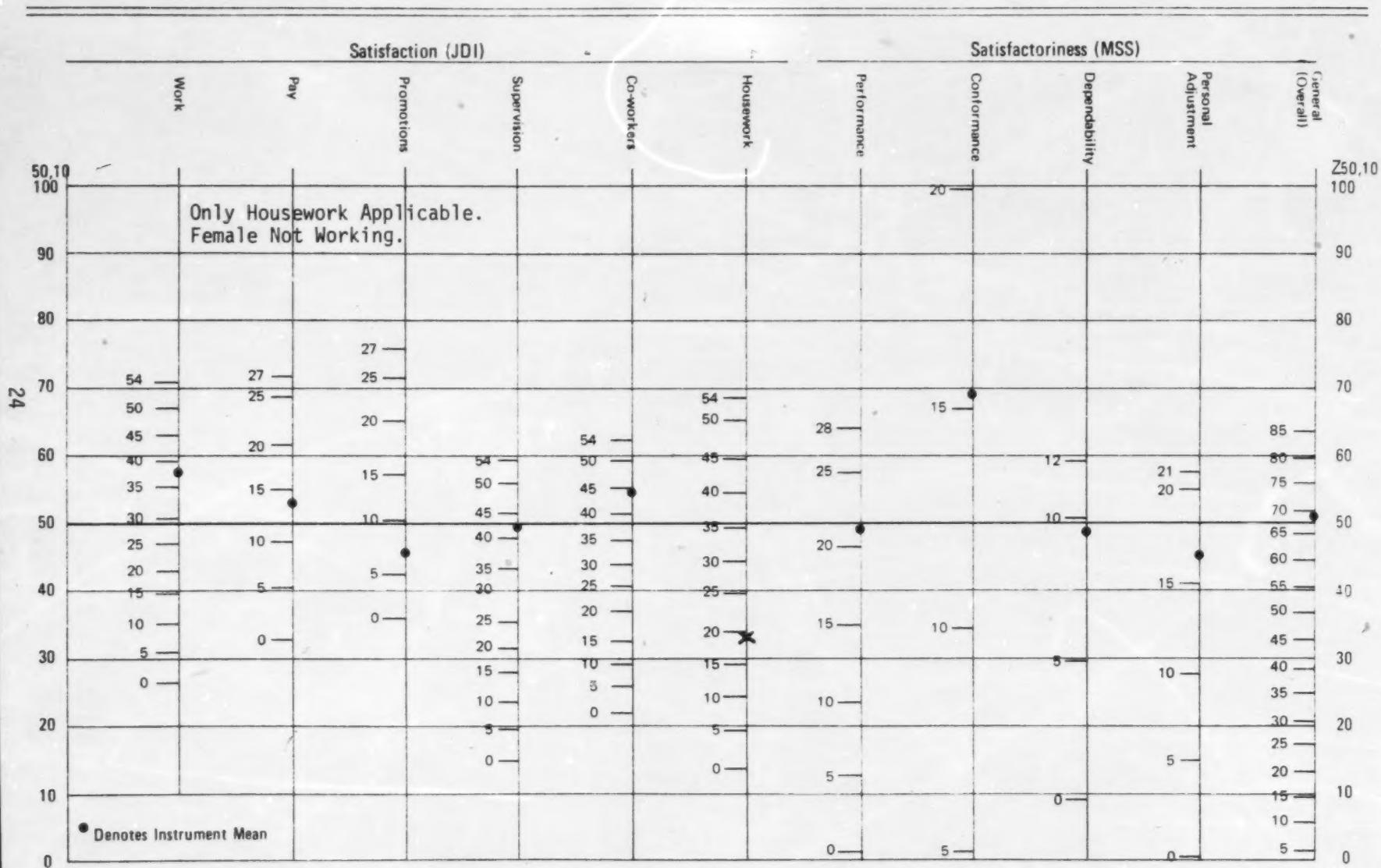
Figure 1
SATISFACTION AND SATISFACTORINESS - MALE



Note: Profile based on entering student scores.

Figure 2

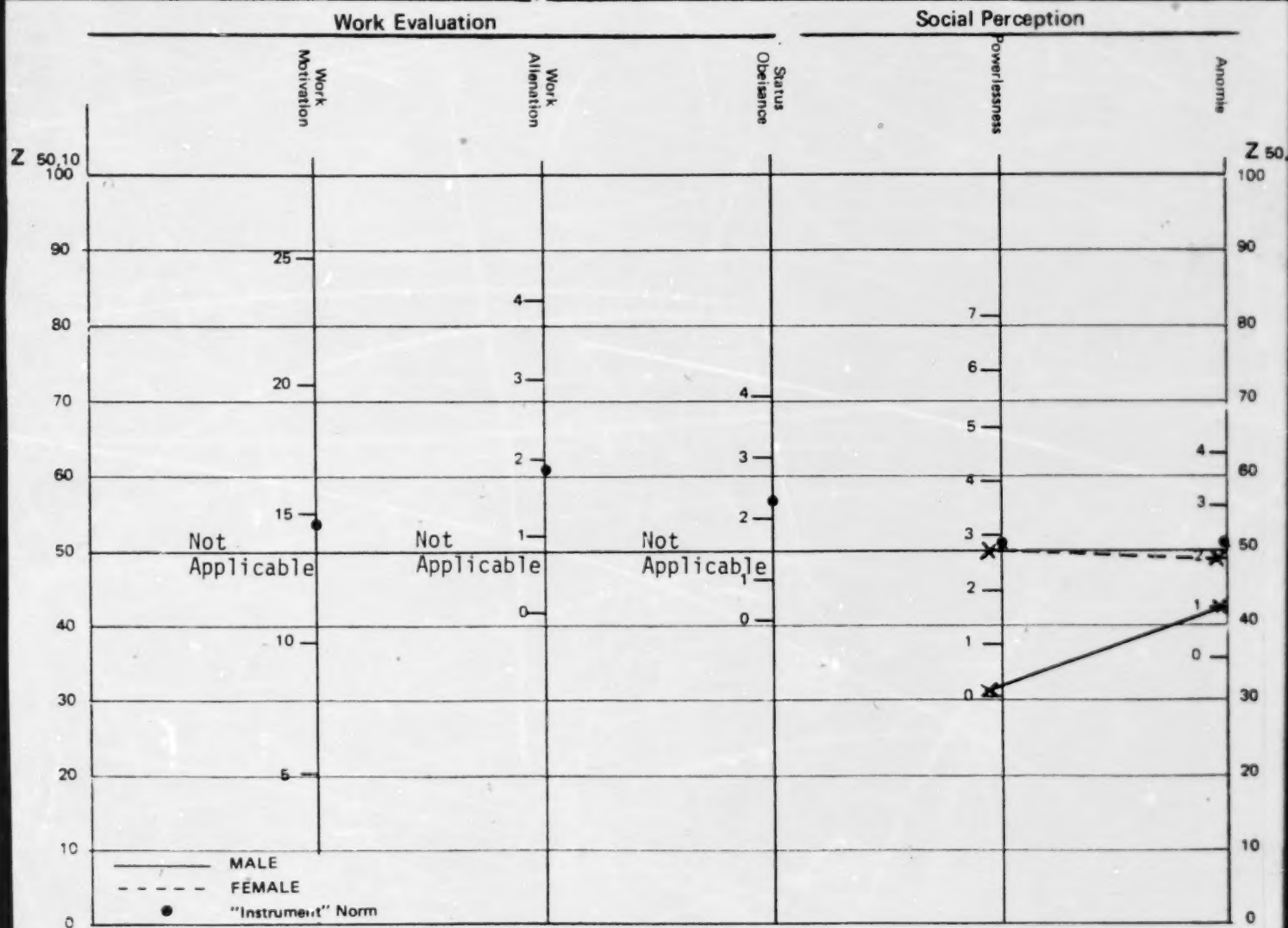
SATISFACTION AND SATISFACTORINESS - FEMALE



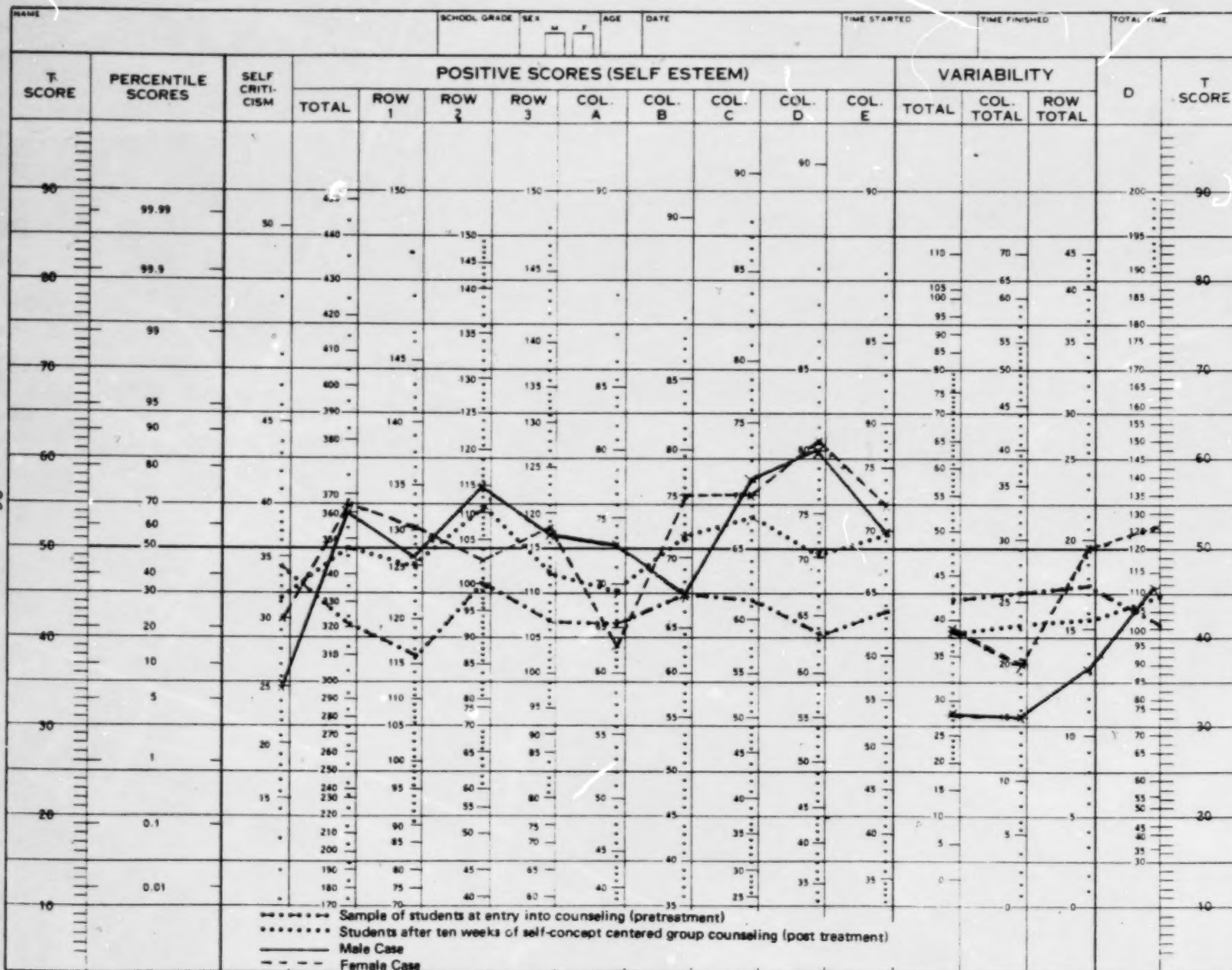
Note: Profile based on entering student norms except "Housework" which is based on instrument norm for employment.

Figure 3

MOTIVATION AND ALIENATION



Note: Profile derived from entering student data.



Note: This is the standard profile sheet for the TSCS.

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COUNSELOR RECORDINGS AND TESTS

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Male					Female			
High		Low			Low		High	
Much	Some	Little	None		None	Little	Some	Much
●	-	-	-	Job Training	-	-	-	●
●	-	-	-	Math	-	-	-	●
		●	-	English	-	-	-	●
	●	-	-	Career Guidance	-	-	●	
●	-	-	-	Work Experience	-	-	●	
	●	-	-	Counseling	-	-	-	●
●	-	-	-	Consumer Education	-	-	-	●
●	-	-	-	Community Development	-	-	●	
●	-	-	-	Recreation	-	-	-	●
	●	-	-	Health	-	-	●	
●	-	-	-	Home Management	-	-	●	
	●	-	-	Early Childhood	-	-	●	

FIGURE 5

UTILITY RATING OF MOUNTAIN-PLAINS PROGRAM ELEMENTS

TABLE 1

SELF RATING OF PERSONAL AND WORK TRAIT CHANGES

Male		Female	
Improved	Regressed	Improved	Regressed
Punctuality		Appearance	Accepts Respon-
Self-Control		Punctuality	sibility (tasks)
Competence		Attendance	Industriousness
Industriousness		Accuracy	
Accepts Respon-		Perseverance	
sibility (tasks)		Dependability/	
Cooperation		Reliability	
Courtesy			
Social Contact			
Dependability/			
Reliability			
Responsibility			
(personal)			
Ambition			

TABLE 2

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. "Rate Mountain-Plains as an influence in your life."

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>
Male		0			
Female		x			

2. "Knowing what you know now, would you have chosen Mountain-Plains?"

	<u>Definitely Yes</u>	<u>Probably Yes</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Probably No</u>	<u>Definitely No</u>
Male	0				
Female	x				

3. "What is your rating for your current life in general?"

	<u>Completely Satisfied</u>	<u>Well Satisfied</u>	<u>Neither Extreme</u>	<u>A Little Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>
Male			0		
Female			x		

4. "Rate your success:

		<u>Completely Successful</u>					<u>Completely Unsuccessful</u>				
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
The year before M-P."	Male							0			
	Female								x		
Now."	Male					0					
	Female							x			
Five years from now."	Male			0							
	Female				x						